



An employee publication of the
Texas Department of Criminal Justice

November/December 2014
Volume 22 Issue 2

Agency News

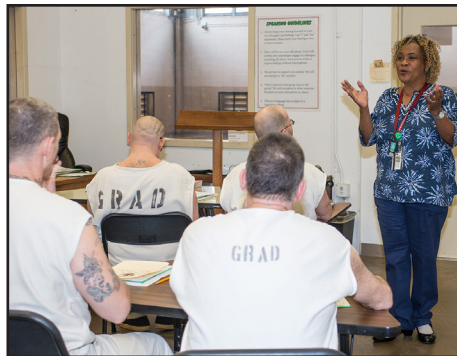
Programs help Ad Seg offenders transition to general population

Administrative segregation, often referred to as “Ad Seg,” refers to the non-punitive separation of an offender from general population in order to maintain safety and security. Typically, offenders are placed in Ad Seg if they pose a threat to others, are confirmed members of the most dangerous and organized gangs, or have exhibited repeated behaviors that create a continued security risk. Ad Seg offenders are housed in individual cells where they have limited contact with other offenders.

Since 2002, the Gang Renunciation and Disassociation program has helped offenders with a history of gang involvement transition from administrative segregation to the general population if they are willing to renounce their gang affiliation. More than 4,000 GRAD participants have returned to the general population since the program began, and almost every offender has successfully remained in a less restrictive custody level.

Recently, TDCJ has implemented a new program, the Administrative Segregation Tran-

sition Program, designed to help prepare offenders who are not members of a security threat group and whose behavior may warrant release from administrative segregation for the transition to general population. Participants in the ASTP spend six hours a day in the classroom covering topics such as cognitive intervention, anger management, work preparation, life skills and substance abuse



Rehabilitation Programs Division Case Manager Veronica Williams teaches a cognitive intervention class to GRAD program participants at the Ellis Unit.

triggers. The curriculum focuses on teaching improved interpersonal skills, relaxation techniques, goal setting and coping strategies. Additional non-mandatory classes such as bible study and 12-step programs are also

offered. After completing the 4-month program, offenders possess the tools they need to increase their chances for success in the less restrictive environment. As Supervisor Steven Gaddis explains, “We’re giving them the opportunity to develop an emotional vocabulary and the cognitive skills that will help them manage their thoughts and be successful in a general population setting.”

Through the ASTP and GRAD programs offenders are given an opportunity to return to general population, and for those motivated to change, the cognitive intervention, anger management and other treatment modalities can positively impact their behavior, and by doing so help create a safer environment for TDCJ staff and the offender population.

For offenders who are releasing from administrative segregation to the street, programs like the Administrative Segregation Pre-Release and the Serious and Violent Offender Rehabilitation Initiative focus on preparing them for reentry into the community. Anger management, substance abuse treatment, coping strategies and cognitive intervention

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are among the subjects addressed by the programs. The ultimate intent of these programs, as well as all other TDCJ programs, is to enhance public safety by positively impacting offender behavior.

According to Executive Director Brad Livingston, the multiple programs treating Ad Seg offenders or providing alternatives to administrative segregation for others are, in addition to enhancing public, staff and offender safety, helping to meet legislative expectations regarding a reduction in the Ad Seg population.

“Legislators in Texas and across the nation have expressed interest in using alternatives to administrative segregation wherever possible, and the programs we have put in place have helped achieve a reduction in the Ad Seg population while maintaining a maximum-security setting for offenders who require that level of supervision,” said Livingston. “This agency will continue to explore alternatives that are consistent with safety and security requirements, and continue to use administrative segregation for offenders who require maximum-security housing.” ●